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EXAMINER	
GUPTA, MUKTESH G	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2444	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/776,459	VERNON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Muktesh G. Gupta	2444	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 February 2010*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14 and 16-30* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14 and 16-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action in response to RCE filed 02/19/2010 and Advisory Action dated 02/19/2010.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claims 14a and Claim 15 are cancelled.

Claims 1-14 and 16-30 are presented for examination have been examined on merits and are pending in this application.

Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/19/2010 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

3. Acknowledgment is made for Applicants Amendments for claim filed on 02/19/2010.

Applicant's amendments to claim necessitated updating search and remapped ground(s) of rejections as stated below presented in this office action necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendment (i.e., select appropriate

endpoint addresses of one or more endpoints from the participant's client device based on a type of request, the network and the media type, the endpoint addresses being assigned priorities; and automatically attempt to connect to at least one client device and an associated endpoint at an end point address based on the priority assigned to the end point; wherein the automatically obtaining endpoint address information and the associated plurality of endpoint addresses is performed in at least one of: parallel, sequentially and simultaneously for one or more participants in the collaboration system) to the claim which significantly affected the scope thereof.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended **Claim 1** have been considered but are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that neither Ludwig nor Hawkes disclose "select appropriate endpoint addresses of one or more endpoints from the participant's client device based on a type of request, the network and the media type, the endpoint addresses being assigned priorities".

Ludwig as stated in col. 19, lines 47-67, col. 21, lines 6-26, col.22, lines 11-25, additional collaborative services--such as Mail 165, Application Sharing 166, Computer-Integrated Telephony 167 and Computer Integrated Fax 168--are also available from the CMW by utilizing Collaboration Initiator module 161 to initiate the session (i.e., to contact the participants) and to invoke the appropriate

application necessary to manage the collaborative session. When initiating asynchronous collaboration (e.g., mail, fax, etc.), the Collaboration Initiator contacts Directory Service 66 for address information (e.g., EMAIL address, fax number, etc.) for the selected participants and invokes the appropriate collaboration tools with the obtained address information. For real-time sessions, the Collaboration Initiator queries the Service Server module 69 inside AVNM 63 for the current location of the specified participants. Using this location information, it communicates (via the AVNM) with the Collaboration Initiators of the other session participants to coordinate session setup. As a result, the various Collaboration Initiators will invoke modules 166, 167 or 168 (including activating any necessary devices such as the connection between the telephone and the CMW's audio I/O port). Before client programs can access audio/video resources through the AVNM, they must register the collaborative services they provide with the Service Server 69. Examples of these services indicate "video call", "snapshot sharing", "conference" and "video file sharing." These service records are entered into the Service Server's service database. The service database thus keeps track of the location of client programs and the types of collaborative sessions in which they can participate. This allows the Collaboration Initiator to find collaboration participants no matter where they are located. The service database is replicated by all Service Servers: Service Servers communicate with other Service Servers in other MLANs throughout the system to exchange their service records. Clients may create a plurality of services,

depending on the collaborative capabilities desired. When creating a service, a client can specify the network resources (e.g. ports) that will be used by this service.

Ludwig as stated in col. 36-, lines 20-24, col. 37, lines 55-65, Also illustrated on the Expert's screen in FIG. 35 is the Collaboration Initiator window 204 from which the Expert can (utilizing Collaboration Initiator software module 161 shown in FIG. 20) initiate and control various collaborative sessions. During this videoconference, an urgent PRIORITY request (New Call window 234) is received from the Expert's boss (who is engaged in a three-party videoconference call with two members of the bank's operations department and is attempting to add the Expert to that call to answer a quick question). The Expert puts his three-party videoconference on hold (merely by clicking the HOLD button in video window 203) and accepts (via the ACCEPT button of New Call window 234) the urgent call from his boss, which results in the Expert being added to the boss' three-party videoconference call.

Hawkes, as stated in col. 14, lines 25-67, col. 16, lines 61-67, The requesting party may be presented with an HTML form to input information about him/herself (name, e-mail address, postal address, country, telephone number, age, gender, profession, and interests), to describe the communication option required (such as text chat, voice chat, page push, shared whiteboard, Internet voice, Internet video, and PSTN telephone call), or to select the target subject. Persistent data in requesting party browser: Information can be stored in the

requesting-party browser 29 (i.e. in "cookies"), to describe or simply identify the requesting party, to maintain service state, or requesting party preferences. 2. Communication endpoint system: This data set is used to describe the communicating device 16 used by the requesting party, for example the media capabilities and name of the device. Communication option: This data set describes the preferred communication mechanism of the requesting party. The requesting party may wish to communicate by Internet or non-Internet channel, or some combination of the two. Non-Internet channels could be telephone, or fax. Internet channels represent a variety of multimedia data types such as text or voice chat, collaborative web browsing, Internet voice and video telephony. Depending on the nature of the service, upon the requesting party joining the selected session, one or more further participants can be automatically invited into the session by the service instance 26 on the basis of the information contained in the initiation context 40 the current state of the selected session, and the nature of the service concerned.

Hence the arguments are not persuasive.

The present amendment does not put the application in condition of allowance. To move application in forward direction Examiner suggested to incorporate salient features as suggested in disclosure par. [0070].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-14 and 16-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6437818 to Ludwig et al., (hereinafter "Ludwig"), and U.S. Patent No. 7334017 to Hawkes; Rycharde Jeffery et al., (hereinafter "Hawkes").

As regards to Claim 1, *A multimedia collaboration system for facilitating a multimedia collaboration session between a plurality of participants, comprising a plurality of client devices associated with each of the plurality of participants, each of the plurality of client devices configured to store endpoint address information associated with the associated participant, the multimedia collaboration system configured to* (Ludwig, as stated in col. 5, line 61-67, As shown in FIG. 1, each of a plurality of "multimedia local area networks" (MLANs) 10 connects, via lines 13, a plurality of CMWs 12-1 to 12-10 and provides audio/video/data networking for supporting collaboration among CMW users):

automatically obtain the endpoint address information from each of the client plurality of devices (Ludwig, as stated in col. 21, lines 6-27, Before client programs can access audio/video resources through the AVNM, they must register the collaborative services they provide with the Service Server 69. Examples of these services indicate

"video call", "snapshot sharing", "conference" and "video file sharing." These service records are entered into the Service Server's service database. The service database thus keeps track of the location (address) of client programs and the types of collaborative sessions (media type) in which they can participate. This allows the Collaboration Initiator to find collaboration participants no matter where they are located. The service database is replicated by all Service Servers: Service Servers communicate with other Service Servers in other MLANs throughout the system to exchange their service records. Clients may create a plurality of services, depending on the collaborative capabilities desired. When creating a service, a client can specify the network resources (e.g. ports address) that will be used by this service. In particular, service information is used to associate a user with the audio/video ports physically connected to the particular CMW into which the user is logged in. Clients that want to receive requests do so by putting their services in listening mode);

associate a plurality of endpoint addresses associated with a participant of the plurality of participant, with a network and with a media type, wherein the endpoint address is any end point that can communicate including a website, a session initiation protocol telephone, a telephone, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant, and any other type of media component that can communicate (Ludwig, as stated in col. 18, lines 17-67, col. 19, lines 1-7, lines 59-67, lines 28-31, A portable laptop implementation can be made to deliver multimedia mail with video, audio and synchronized annotations via CD-ROM or an add-on videotape unit with separate video, audio and time code. Cellular phone links can be used to obtain both voice and data communications (via

modems). Modem-based data communications are sufficient to support remote control of mail or presentation playback, annotation, file transfer and fax features. CMW software modules 160 are illustrated generally in FIG. 20 in conjunction with the software running on MLAN Server 60 of FIG. 3, allows the user to initiate and manage videoconferencing, data conferencing, multimedia mail and other collaborative sessions with other users across the network. When the Collaboration Initiator is started, it exchanges initial configuration information with the Audio Video Network Manager (AVNM) 60 (shown in FIG. 3) through Data Network 902. Information is also sent from the Collaboration Initiator to the AVNM indicating the location of the user, the types of services available on that workstation (e.g., videoconferencing, data conferencing, telephony, etc.) and other relevant initialization information. The Collaboration Initiator presents a user interface that allows the user to initiate collaborative sessions (both real-time and asynchronous). Session participants can be selected from a graphical rolodex 163 that contains a scrollable list of user names or from a list of quick-dial buttons 162. Quick-dial buttons show the face icons for the users they represent. The icon representing the user is retrieved by the Collaboration Initiator from the Directory Server 66 on MLAN Server 60 when it starts up. Users can dynamically add new quick-dial buttons by dragging the corresponding entries from the graphical rolodex onto the quick-dial panel. For real-time sessions, the Collaboration Initiator queries the Service Server module 69 inside AVNM 63 for the current location of the specified participants. Using this location information, it communicates (via the AVNM) with the Collaboration Initiators of the other session participants to coordinate session setup. As a result, the

various Collaboration Initiators will invoke modules 166, 167 or 168 (including activating any necessary devices such as the connection between the telephone and the CMW's audio I/O port). Once the user selects the desired participant and session type, Collaboration Initiator module 161 retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service 66 (see FIG. 21));

select appropriate endpoint addresses of one or more endpoints from the participant's client device based on type of request, the network and the media type, the endpoint addresses being assigned priorities (Ludwig, as stated in col. 19, lines 47-59, col. 20, lines 40-50, col. 21, line 67, col. 22, lines 1-10, Additional collaborative services--such as Mail 165, Application Sharing 166, Computer-Integrated Telephony 167 and Computer Integrated Fax 168--are also available from the CMW by utilizing Collaboration Initiator module 161 to initiate the session (i.e., to contact the participants) and to invoke the appropriate application necessary to manage the collaborative session. When initiating asynchronous collaboration (e.g., mail, fax, etc.), the Collaboration Initiator contacts Directory Service 66 for address information (e.g., EMAIL address, fax number, etc.) for the selected participants and invokes the appropriate collaboration tools with the obtained address information. For each device on the network, the AVNM combines these physical connections for audio in, audio out, video in and video out connections into a port abstraction, wherein each port represents an addressable bidirectional audio/video channel. After logging to AVNM 63, as indicated by (1) in FIG. 23, a caller initiates a call (e.g., by selecting a user from the graphical rolodex and clicking the call button or by double-clicking the face icon of the

callee on the quick-dial panel). The caller's Collaboration Initiator responds by identifying the selected user and requesting that user's address from Directory Service 66, as indicated by (2) in FIG. 23. Directory Service 66 looks up the callee's address in the directory database, as indicated by (3) in FIG. 23, and then returns it to the caller's Collaboration Initiator, as illustrated by (4) in FIG. 23. The caller's Collaboration Initiator sends a request to the AVNM to place a video call to the caller with the specified address, as indicated by (5) in FIG. 23);

and automatically attempt to connect at least one client device and an associated endpoint *at an endpoint address based on priority assigned to the end point* (Ludwig, as stated in col. 22, lines 11-38, col. 35, lines 44-46, col. 37, lines 55-65, The caller's Collaboration Initiator sends a request to the AVNM to place a video call to the caller with the specified address, as indicated by (5) in FIG. 23. The AVNM queries the Service Server to find the service instance of type "video call" whose name corresponds to the callee's address. This service record identifies the location of the callee's Collaboration Initiator as well as the network ports that the callee is connected to. If no service instance is found for the callee, the AVNM notifies the caller that the callee is not logged in. If the callee is local, the AVNM sends a call event to the callee's Collaboration Initiator, as indicated by (6) in FIG. 23. If the callee is at a remote site, the AVNM forwards the call request (5) through the WAN gateway 40 for transmission, via WAN 15 (FIG. 1) to the Collaboration Initiator of the callee's CMW at the remote site. The callee's Collaboration Initiator can respond to the call event in a variety of ways. In the preferred embodiment, a user-selectable sound is generated to announce the

incoming call. The Collaboration Initiator can then act in one of two modes. In "Telephone Mode," the Collaboration Initiator displays an invitation message on the CMW screen that contains the name of the caller and buttons to accept or refuse the call. The Collaboration Initiator will then accept or refuse the call, depending on which button is pressed by the callee. In "Intercom Mode," the Collaboration Initiator accepts all incoming calls automatically, unless there is already another call active on the callee's CMW, in which case behavior reverts to Telephone Mode. Consider the following scenario involving access from remote sites to an in-house corporate "expert" in the trading of financial instruments such as in the securities market (shown in FIG. 35-37). During this videoconference, an urgent PRIORITY request (New Call window 234) is received from the Expert's boss (who is engaged in a three-party videoconference call with two members of the bank's operations department and is attempting to add the Expert to that call to answer a quick question). The Expert puts his three-party videoconference on hold (merely by clicking the HOLD button in video window 203) and accepts (via the ACCEPT button of New Call window 234) the urgent call from his boss, which results in the Expert being added to the boss' three-party videoconference call);

wherein the automatically obtaining endpoint address information and the associated plurality of endpoint addresses is performed in at least one of: parallel, sequentially and simultaneously for one or more participants in the collaboration system (Ludwig, as stated in col. 11, lines 45-55, col. 19, lines 54-67, col. 23, lines 3-18, col. 25, lines 12-15, in a multi-party video teleconference involving geographically dispersed

sites, while still delivering full conference views of all participants. Normally, in order for the CMWs at all sites to be provided with live audio/video of every participant in a teleconference simultaneously, each site has to allocate (in router/codec bank 42 in FIG. 4) a separate codec for each participant, as well as a like number of WAN trunks (via WAN switching multiplexer 44 in FIG. 4. When initiating asynchronous collaboration (e.g., mail, fax, etc.), the Collaboration Initiator contacts Directory Service 66 for address information (e.g., EMAIL address, fax number, etc.) for the selected participants and invokes the appropriate collaboration tools with the obtained address information. For real-time sessions, the Collaboration Initiator queries the Service Server module 69 inside AVNM 63 for the current location of the specified participants. Using this location information, it communicates (via the AVNM) with the Collaboration Initiators of the other session participants to coordinate session setup. As a result, the various Collaboration Initiators will invoke modules 166, 167 or 168 (including activating any necessary devices such as the connection between the telephone and the CMW's audio I/O port). AVNM clients send call requests to the AVNM whenever they want to initiate a call. As part of a call request, the client specifies the local service in which the call will be involved, the name of the specific port to use for the call, identifying information as to the callee, and the call mode. In response, the AVNM creates a callhandle on the caller's port. All callhandles are created in the "idle" state. The AVNM then puts the caller's callhandle in the "active" state. The AVNM next creates a callhandle for the callee and sends it a call event, which places the callee's callhandle in the "ringing" state. When the callee accepts the call, its callhandle is placed in the

"active" state, which results in a physical connection between the caller and the callee. Each port can have an arbitrary number of callhandles bound to it, but typically only one of these callhandles can be active at the same time. Conference call may be provided for additional parties, as well as simultaneously occurring conference calls).

In related field of Collaboration Hawkes discloses, web interaction system comprises endpoint systems (customer and CSR systems 60, 74) that can establish multi-media communication with each other using the services of a web interaction service system 64-70 that embodies the service front end 27, communication session manager 14, and session transport manager 19 of the FIG. 3 layered functional diagram (Hawkes as stated in col. 19, lines 5-25).

Further Hawkes discloses, capturing location and endpoint address information of requesting party. The information contained in the initiation context 40 will to some extent be service specific but will generally involve information grouped into the following data sets: 1. Requesting party. This data set is used to describe the characteristics of the requesting party. Other attributes could relate to preferences of the requesting party are derived and collated from several sources: The requesting party may be presented with an HTML form to input information about him/herself (name, e-mail address, postal address, country, telephone number, age, gender, profession, and interests), to describe the communication option required (such as text chat, voice chat, page push, shared whiteboard, Internet voice, Internet video, and PSTN telephone call), or to select the target subject. Persistent data in requesting party browser: Information can be stored in the requesting-party browser 29 (i.e. in "cookies"), to describe or simply

identify the requesting party, to maintain service state, or requesting party preferences. The initial capture the locale of the requesting party can be done in any appropriate manner. For example, where the requesting party initiates contact by clicking on a help button appearing on a web page on the enterprise server 64, then the locale information can be associated with the button and passed to the SMS 67 for incorporation in the session context; locale information could simply be captured along with other participant data as part of a form-based dialogue after the help button is pressed. Another way of obtaining locale information is for the SMS or CSM to use customer identity information to look up locale information for the customer in a customer profile database (Hawkes as stated in col. 14, lines 22-39, col. 15, lines 34-51, col. 25, lines 56-67, and col. 26, lines 1-5).

Further Hawkes discloses, Thus, where the endpoint system is the initiator of a communication service request, the initial state effectively corresponds to the period between when the request is issued and when an invitation to join a session is received back since the invitation will generally be automatically accepted by the endpoint system (note that the invitation may be either explicit or implied by the passing to the endpoint system of the information necessary to join a session) Depending on the nature of the service, upon the requesting party joining the selected session, one or more further participants can be automatically invited into the session by the service instance 26 on the basis of the information contained in the initiation context 40 the current state of the selected session, and the nature of the service concerned. Many different transport mechanisms for leg controller messages are possible. For example,

Java Message Service (JMS), Internet protocol (IP) socket and Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) and by using the above mechanisms, a communication session instance can implement the session operations by translating operations into a sequence of operations on instances of leg controllers to change the connection state of the affected session entities (Hawkes as stated in col. 8, lines 51-67, col. 9, lines 1-36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Ludwig's disclosure for providing collaboration system and method utilizing at least one control communications link where, the control communications link controls any of transmission, routing, multipoint conferencing, and end display of video signals as well as connection termination to endpoint address to that of Hawkes's web interaction system which allows considerable flexibility in how a request from a user to communicate with one or more other participants is satisfied based on the user's devices capabilities, preference, priority and network topology. Web browser of the participant's system launches graphical user interfaces (GUI) for each of the media types used in a communication session, as well as the required media channels for each of the media types in the session.

The modifications would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated for a method, system, which provide efficient mechanism for Collaboration through Web interaction system which is an example of hybridization between existing contact centers, and are oriented around telephony, and the next generation of Internet Relationship Management centers which use Internet

technology for communication with a customers for providing various collaboration services simultaneously to multiple customers.

As regards to Claim 2, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information is used to add a new media component to the multimedia collaboration session* (as stated in lines col. 6, lines 7-18, Ludwig discloses, various other multimedia resources such as VCR, TV feeds are connected to multimedia LANs and there by accessible to individual collaborative multimedia workstations).

As regards to Claim 3, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information for each participant comprises endpoint address information for a plurality of endpoints* (as stated in col. 8, lines 63-67, col. 9, lines 1-14, Ludwig discloses, for connecting to all the desired participants multimedia LAN server controls to set up the required audio/video/data paths to conferees which in turn is endpoint address for participants as well as the associated devices in network paths).

As regards to Claim 4, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein priority can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each*

participant (as stated in col. 37, lines 55-65, Ludwig discloses, priority can be assigned to multiple collaborative services associated with participants).

As regards to Claim 5, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein a hierarchy can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each participant* (as stated in col. 10, lines 66-67 and col. 11, lines 1-5, Ludwig discloses, in case of several multiple hop routes available, the routing system handles the network hierarchy at the connection endpoints).

As regards to Claim 6, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is an audio conferencing component* (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, Ludwig discloses, a handset/headset jack enables the use of an integrated audio I/O device).

As regards to Claim 7, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 6, wherein the addition of the audio conferencing component includes the addition of telephonic conferencing via a telephonic network* (as stated in col. 19, lines 47-67 and col. 20, line 1, Ludwig discloses, Audio/Video Network Manager provides connection through a/v switches between telephone and collaborative multimedia workstation's audio I/O device).

As regards to Claim 8, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over a network that is separate from the telephonic network* (as stated in col. 7, lines 26-34, Ludwig discloses, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network).

As regards to *Claim 9,* *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over one network and the added media component is associated with a second network* (as stated in col. 7, lines 26-34, Ludwig discloses, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network).

As regards to Claim 10, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use separate access devices* (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-6, Ludwig discloses, multimedia audio network access devices are separate from the multimedia data network access devices).

As regards to Claim 11, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use different addressing schemes* (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67, col. 8, lines 1-22, Ludwig discloses, data

network uses different addressing schemes, the TCP/IP protocol suite for communicating with the server).

As regards to Claim 12, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the collaboration session by automatically storing the endpoint address information for each of the plurality of participants as each participant joins the multimedia collaboration session* (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18, 65-67, col. 22, lines 1-25, Ludwig discloses, when participants are joining the collaborative services, audio/video network manager module registers, stores and replicates to other service servers the network resources of participants and the end point addresses).

As regards to Claims 13-14, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the multimedia collaboration session upon receipt of a query from a existing and new participant* (as stated in Col. 24, line 48-60, col. 25, line 26-43 and col. 26, lines 13-22 Ludwig discloses, new users are added along with there associated network/media devices as they are invited and when they want to join as an new participant to the collaborative session).

As regards to Claim 16, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoints address information comprises a telephone number* (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, col. 19, lines 47-67, Ludwig discloses, as part of computer integrated telephony, collaborative multimedia workstations have telephone with number which is an endpoint address for the telephone).

As regards to Claim 17, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint addresses information includes a list of addresses for the associated participant* (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Ludwig discloses, participants collaborative multimedia workstations have, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services with end point addresses).

As regards to Claim 18, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the list of addresses corresponds to multiple client devices* (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Ludwig discloses, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services are provided by the corresponding devices).

As regards to Claim 19, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further*

configured to automatically attempt to connect via each of addresses in the list of addresses until it achieves a successful connection (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Ludwig discloses, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

As regards to Claim 20, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 19, wherein the endpoint address information includes multiple phone numbers for the associated participant* (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2 Ludwig discloses, associated participant have telephone, fax and number associated with them).

As regards to Claim 21, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 20, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to automatically dial each of the multiple phone numbers until it achieves a successful audio connection* (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Ludwig discloses, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

As regards to Claim 22, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein it enables each participant to edit the participant's associated endpoint address information using the participant's associated*

client device (as stated in col. 21, lines 19-30, lines 65-67 and col. 22, lines 1-25, lines 62-66, Ludwig discloses, participants can select services they want and edit and update corresponding endpoint address associated with the service devices).

As regards to Claim 23, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information comprises an internet protocol address for a client device* (as stated in col. 8, lines 12-22, Ludwig discloses, collaborative multimedia workstation endpoint address is TCP/IP network protocol suite).

As regards to Claim 24, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to distribute the endpoint address information obtained to each participant* (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21, lines 6-30, Ludwig discloses, when participants select the services required, they register with service server which in turn replicates and distribute to other service servers).

As regards to Claim 25, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 24, wherein the endpoint address information distributed by the multimedia collaboration system can be stored on each of the participant's associated client device* (as stated in col. 19, lines 59-67, col. 20, lines 1-2 and col. 21

lines 6-30, Ludwig discloses, participants endpoint address distributed by service server enables participant to add other participants shown on there collaborative multimedia workstation as icons).

As regards to Claim 26, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein endpoint address information is automatically collected from each client device when an associated participant joins the multimedia collaboration session using the client device* (as stated in col. 21 lines 6-30, lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-25, Ludwig discloses, when participants joins a collaborative session using client devices, they register with service server which automatically collects the end point address of the client device).

As regards to Claim 27, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is a video stream component* (as stated in col. 29, lines 9-31, Ludwig discloses, multimedia conference is recorded and played as video stream).

As regards to Claim 28, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose multimedia collaboration system of claim 27, wherein the endpoint address information obtained by the multimedia collaboration system can be distributed to client device associated with participants that wish to share video streams, and wherein the client devices can use*

the endpoint address information distributed to the client device to exchange the video streams between the client device (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21 lines 6-30, Ludwig discloses, participants can select the services they want and share with other participants video streams which are stored on servers with endpoint address associated for replay).

As regards to Claim 29, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 28, wherein the client devices sharing the video streams share the video streams in a peer-to-manner using the distributed endpoint address information* (as stated in col. 9, lines 4-14, col. 21 lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-26, 55-61, Ludwig discloses, Audio/Video switching is peer-to-peer basis between servers).

As regards to Claim 30, *Ludwig and Hawkes disclose a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of central servers is configured to handle a different media component* (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18, col. 28, lines 52-55, col. 30 lines 28-30, Ludwig discloses, multiple servers are used for collaborative services, service server, audio/video storage servers and data server for time-sensitive media and media that have synchronization requirements with other media components).

Remarks

6. The following pertaining arts are discovered and not used in this office action. Office reserves the right to use these arts in later actions.

a. Duffy, John et al. (US 20020199203 A1) Switched digital video gateway

b. Girard, Gregory D. (US 20020176404 A1) Distributed edge switching system for voice-over-packet multiservice network

c. Maes, Stephane H. (US 20020184373 A1) Conversational networking via transport, coding and control conversational protocols

d. Mandato; Davide et al. (US 7653735 B2) Method for achieving end-to-end quality of service negotiations for distributed multi-media applications

e. Wu; Fang et al. (US 7627629 B1) Method and apparatus for multipoint conferencing

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Muktesh G. Gupta whose telephone number is 571-270-5011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MG

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2444